

Proposed Rule Amendment to §329.2. Licensure by Examination

Summary of Amendment: The amendments are proposed to allow for the implementation of the **Alternate Approval Process** through the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (Federation) for candidate eligibility for the National Physical Therapy Examination (exam). The procedures for applying for re-examination if a candidate fails the exam and for applying for accommodations for taking the exam will be included in the Federation's requirements for eligibility and will be processed by the Federation.

§329.2. Licensure by Examination.

(a) Requirements. An applicant applying for licensure by examination must:

- (1) meet the requirements as stated in §329.1 of this title (relating to General Licensure Requirements and Procedures);
- (2) register to take the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) and select Texas as the jurisdiction for which the applicant will be testing in order to national exam through this state, and have the first score report sent to this state; and
- (3) pass the NPTE ~~National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE)~~ for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants with the score approved ~~set~~ by the board. Score reports must be sent directly to the board by the authorized score reporting service.

(b) Re-examination.

- (1) An applicant who fails the exam is eligible to take the examination again if all eligibility requirements as set in policy by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) are met. ~~after submitting a re-exam application and fee.~~
- (2) An applicant can take the exam a maximum of six (6) times.
- (3) An applicant who receives two (2) very low scores on the exam (scale scores 400 or below) will not be eligible to test again.
- (4) An applicant who has taken the exam six (6) times or received two (2) very low scores may appeal for one (1) additional attempt through the Board for reasons as set in policy by the ~~FSBPT Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).~~
- (5) An applicant can take the exam for PTs six (6) times and also take the exam for PTAs six (6) times if otherwise eligible to do so.

(c) Failure of PT exam. An applicant who fails the physical therapy examination may apply for licensure as a PTA and take the physical therapist assistant examination if he meets all other requirements for licensure.

(d) Exam Accommodations.

(1) Reasonable testing accommodations for an exam candidate with a disability or challenge that is covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act will be provided for candidates who submit the appropriate documentation through the FSBPT.

(2) Accommodations must be requested at the time of registration for the NPTE.

The board will provide reasonable accommodations for the national exam. An individual requesting special accommodations must submit the request to the board at least 30 days prior to the deadline for registering for the licensing examination. The board will process the accommodation request once all of the required information and documentation is received. The request includes the following forms:

~~(1) A completed Accommodations Request Form;~~

~~(2) A Professional Documentation of Disability Form, completed by a diagnostician meeting the board's requirements, which includes documentation of tests and measures used to diagnose the disability, and the results of those tests and measures;~~

~~(3) A completed Consent to Release Information Form; and~~

~~(4) The Academic Program Verification Form completed by the director of the academic program attended, if accommodations were granted by the PT or PTA program.~~